

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Red River Supply Warehouse Fire - Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VIII

**Subject:** POLREP #2  
Red River Supply Warehouse Fire  
  
Williston, ND

**To:** Kerry Guy, EPA  
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Jessica Johnson, Fish and Wildlife  
Jason Callahan, CTEH

**From:** Paul Peronard, OSC

**Date:** 7/27/2014

**Reporting  
Period:**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

**Site Number:**  
**D.O.**  
**Number:**

**Contract Number:**  
**Action Memo**  
**Date:**

**Response****Authority:**

<b>Response Lead:</b>	PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>		<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	7/22/2014	<b>Start Date:</b>	7/22/2014
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

Emergency Response

**1.1.2 Site Description**

At approximately 9 a.m. on July 22 EPA Region 8 emergency response program received notice from North Dakota Department of Public Health of a major chemical fire involving the Red River Supply warehouse in Williston North Dakota (site). The chemical fire started at approximately 1 a.m. that morning and had been burning intensely since. Concerns at the site include public exposure to the smoke plume, contaminated runoff to storm water, and potential impacts to the The Little Muddy River and the Missouri River. Due to the nature of the fire, which involved significant quantities of chemicals, the local fire department attending the fire decided to let the fire burn itself out with minimal use of water for fire suppression. The City put out an advisory for residents within one half-mile of the site to either evacuate or shelter in place. The phone duty EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) discussed emergency air monitoring needs with the health department. The 81<sup>st</sup> Civil Support Team was in-route to assist in air monitoring at the time. At approximately 10 a.m. OSC Paul Peronard was deployed to the site to provide additional emergency air monitoring equipment and assistance.

**1.1.2.1 Location**

Red River Supply (<http://www.redriversupply.us/>) is located at 1202 East Broadway, Williston, ND. The facility is located on the southeast side of Williston in an industrial area. Residential areas are located approximately one half to three quarters of a mile to the northwest of the site. The Red River Supply facility provides products and materials for the Bakken play oil field. The MSDS for the materials stored at the warehouse was provided to the North Dakota Department of Health and EPA by Red River Supply (see document "Red River Supply MSDS" ). Quantities of these materials stored at the time of the fire were later provided to the agencies as well (see document "RRS msds inventory").

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Threats to human health and the environment at the site include public exposure to the smoke plume (chemicals and particulates) , contaminated runoff to storm water, and potential impacts to the The Little Muddy River immediately to the east and the Missouri River just to the south. Stormwater from the site drains to the main storm drainage canal that borders the site on the east side. The canal drains city storm water as well as treated waste water from Williston's waste water treatment lagoons.

#### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

OSC Paul Peronard along with four START personnel arrived at the site at approximately 9:30 pm on July 22 and transitioned into air monitoring at approximately 10:30 pm. While en-route to the site, a phone conference was held with North Dakota Department of Public Health personnel, EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT), and the OSC. The parties reviewed Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for chemicals inside the facility to determine likely combustion gases that would pose a public health concern. The combustion products anticipated included carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitric oxides, hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide, chlorine, and ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide. Based on the MSDS information and the location of residential areas-- over one-half mile from the site, EPA ERT indicated emission of particulate matter would be the main concern regarding public exposure from the fire.

EPA responders set up and ran several particulate monitors outside the perimeter boundary and conducted combustion gas monitoring along the perimeter. EPA monitored conditions throughout Tuesday night and through Wednesday (July 23). Emission gas monitoring showed no measurable levels of combustion products at the site perimeter. Particulate monitoring around the perimeter showed elevated levels which dropped steadily throughout Tuesday night. The State's air monitoring station located in a residential area a little over half a mile to the northwest from the site, indicated minor to moderate levels of particulates. See air monitoring results on the site map. By Wednesday morning the fire was mostly out with ongoing smoldering and occasional flare-ups.

On Wednesday morning, July 23, OSC, Unified Command; Williston Fire Chief, North Dakota Department Public Health, Williston County Health, Red River Supply environmental contractors (Garner Environmental), and EPA met to assess the site situation and discuss next steps.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

All incident action plans for the site have been added to the EPA OSC web site. The site has not been released for clean-up operations pending clearance by the City Fire Marshall. The adjacent roads to the site have been opened up for traffic. A section of the City canal system remains closed with earthen and sandbag berms and plugged culverts retaining the water pending test results. A fire suppression contractor has been hired to address ongoing management of flareups and provide dust suppression support. It is expected that additional flare ups will occur during the process of sorting and removing debris piles of chemicals and containers.

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

Response Actions July 22-July 24. Williston fire department controlled and prevented fire from spreading to other buildings. To extent practicable, storm drains in the vicinity were covered to prevent migration of contaminated water.

Emergency air monitoring was conducted from July 22 through July 24th. Actions were also taken to prevent site run-off water from entering the city stormwater system which drains to the Missouri River. Culverts to the main drainage canal to the east were plugged to hold water until it could be tested for contamination. Water entering the canal from the north is being diverted. Several locations along the canal were boomed to contain debris, oil, and soot from the fire. A Fish and Wildlife biologist visited the site to take fish samples at the canal.

Response Action July 25-July 27. The 2-foot berm around the site has been completed. Portions of the City canal system to the east of the site remain plugged, holding significant quantities of water. Aeration actions with several compressors to reaches of the blocked canal are continuing to raise oxygen levels. Levels in some areas of the canal have risen from less than 1 mg/l to above 3 mg/l. Fish and Wildlife took samples of dead fish from the canal for testing.

Construction of a decontamination pad has been initiated. Air monitoring by EPA is being transitioned to CTEH, which will continue to conduct particulate monitoring at the initial EPA stations.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity Manifest</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposition</i>
		#		





## **2.2 Planning Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.



## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

City of Williston, Williston Volunteer fire department

North Dakota Department of Public Health

Williams County Health Department

US Fish and Wildlife

Corps of Engineers

4 EPA Start Personnel

EPA OSC Paul Peronard

Garner Environmental

CTEG-sub to Garner

## **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.